

BOOK NOTICES

GERALDINE ELLIS WATSON. 2006. **Big Thicket Plant Ecology: An Introduction (3rd Ed.)**. (ISBN 978-1-57441-214-7, pbk). University of North Texas Press, PO Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.unt.edu/untpress, 940-565-2142, 940-565-4590 fax, 1-800-826-8911). \$14.95, 144 pp., 20 illustrations, 15 maps, 8 figures, 6" × 9".

This small volume is the starting point for anyone interested in the biology of the Big Thicket -- an expanded and updated edition of the original from 1975. Included are discussions of the definition of the "Big Thicket," geological history, plant communities and succession, and descriptions of the subdivisions ("units") of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Good maps, diagrams, and photos.

Other useful books on Big Thicket biology:

- Ajilvsgi, G. 1979. Wildflowers of the Big Thicket, East Texas, and Western Louisiana. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station
- Gunter, P. 1971. The Big Thicket: A Challenge for Conservation. Viking Press, New York.
- Gunter, P.A.Y. 1993. Big Thicket: An Ecological Reevaluation. Univ. North Texas Press, Denton
- Peacock, H. 1994. Nature Lover's Guide to the Big Thicket. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station.

An All-Taxa-Biological-Inventory (ATBI) is underway for the Big Thicket National Preserve. For detailed information on this project, contact Linda C. Brindle, Executive Director, Big Thicket Association <director@bigthicket.org>.—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.

KRIS M. HAVSTAD, LAURA F. HUENNEKE, AND WILLIAM H. SCHLESINGER (eds.). 2006. **Structure and Function of a Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystem: The Jornada Basin Long-Term Ecological Research Site**. (ISBN 978-0-195-11776-9, hbk). Oxford University Press, 2001 Evans Road, Cary, NC 27513, U.S.A. (**Orders:** www.oup.com, 1-800-451-7556, 919-677-1303 fax). \$74.50, 492 pp., 98 b/w halftones, maps, line drawings, 6" × 9¼".

The Jornada Basin Long-Term Ecological Research Site is located in south-central New Mexico (25 km northeast of Las Cruces). It includes the 78,000 ha Jornada Experimental Range operated by the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the 22,000 ha Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center (CDRRC) operated by New Mexico State University. Research toward understanding the causes and consequences of desertification began in this basin in 1912, and the site was established in 1982 as one of NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) sites. Research reported and summarized here is collaborative across a number of disciplines. The book has 18 chapters, written by 36 contributors.

Contents.—**1**) Introduction (Havstad & Schlesinger); **2**) Regional Setting of the JB; **3**) Climate and Climatological Variations in the JB; **4**) Soil Development in the JB; **5**) Patterns and Controls of Soil Water in the JB; **6**) Nutrient Cycling within an Arid Ecosystem; **7**) Biogeochemical Fluxes across Piedmont Slopes of the JB; **8**) Water and Energy Balances within the JB; **9**) Eolian Processes on the JB; **10**) Plant Communities in the JB: The Dynamic Landscape; **11**) Patterns of Net Primary Production in Chihuahuan Desert Ecosystems; **12**) Chihuahuan Desert Fauna: Effects on Ecosystem Properties and Processes; **13**) Grazing Livestock Management in an Arid Ecosystem; **14**) Remediation Research in the JB: Past and Future; **15**) Applications of Remotely Sensed Data From the JB; **16**) Modeling the Unique Attributes of Arid Ecosystems: Lessons from the JB; **17**) A Holistic View of an Arid Ecosystem: A Synthesis of Research and Its Applications; **18**) Future Directions in Jornada Research: Applying an Interactive Landscape Model to Solve Problems.

Two websites provide information on Jornada Basin research, "including archived and active data sets, current projects, research protocols, access authorization forms, program descriptions, and an interactive bibliography of the history of publications in the Jornada Basin:<<http://usda-ars.nmsu.edu>> and <<http://jornada-www.nmsu.edu>>.—Guy Nesom, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.